



Letter dated 7 May 1964 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations has brought to the notice of the Soviet Government your note No. TR-300 of 2 April 1964, in which you draw attention to operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of the resolution on Southern Rhodesia adopted by the Special Committee of Twenty-Four on 23 March 1964 and, on the instructions of the Soviet Government, has the honour to state the following.

As is well known, the Soviet Union invariably comes out in support of the colonial peoples, who are fighting for their freedom and independence, for vigorous measures to end forever the disgraceful system of colonialism. Ever since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples the Soviet Union has strongly pressed for the immediate and universal implementation of that historic document.

The position of the Soviet Government on the question of Southern Rhodesia is also well known. In the consideration of this question in United Nations bodies the efforts of the Soviet Government have been directed towards the immediate grant of complete independence to Southern Rhodesia under conditions which would ensure that all sovereign rights are handed over to the Southern Rhodesian people. It vigorously supports the just demands of the people of Southern Rhodesia for the repeal of the racist constitution of 1961, the creation of representative organs of the indigenous population by holding elections based on universal suffrage, and the transfer of all power in the country to those organs.

The Soviet Union does not have any political, economic or other relations with the racist government of Southern Rhodesia and does not supply it with arms and ammunition in any form.

The latest events show that all the decisions of the United Nations concerning independence for Southern Rhodesia accompanied by the transfer of power to its people are still being ignored. The racist white-minority government of Southern Rhodesia is intensifying preparations to implement its plan for a unilateral declaration of independence of Southern Rhodesia in circumstances where power in the country has been usurped by the representatives of the white racists. Recently the Southern Rhodesia authorities mounted a country-wide campaign of terror and repression against the national patriotic forces. They arrested Joshua Nkomo, head of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union, and other political leaders of Southern Rhodesia and restricted them to remote areas near the borders of Mozambique and the Union of South Africa. The police are dealing mercilessly with African patriots fighting for the liberation of their country.

In this connexion, the Government of the Soviet Union deems it necessary for the United Nations to take swift and effective measures to prevent the carrying out of plans to perpetuate the colonial regime in Southern Rhodesia.

The Soviet Government strongly condemns the acts being perpetrated by the Southern Rhodesia racists against the people of Southern Rhodesia and its political leaders. It emphatically supports the numerous demands for the immediate cessation of the brutal reprisals against Southern Rhodesian patriots and for the release of Joshua Nkomo and the other political leaders of Southern Rhodesia.

I request you to arrange for the circulation of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
